GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Crime against Foreign Tourists
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has maintained any data regarding various crimes including heinous crimes committed against foreign tourists in order to frame a comprehensive policy in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that women from Commonwealth of Independent States are being brought to India on tourist Visa and are being forced into flesh trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases reported and the action taken against the guilty during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to curb such crimes in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): During the year 2015 the number of foreigners visited India were 80,27,133. In order to strengthen the Immigration system and monitor the entry and exit of foreigners, a modernization program viz. Mission Mode Project on Immigration, Visa, Foreigners" Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) has been implemented by the Government. This
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project aims to develop a secure service delivery framework to enhance security and facilitation by integrating the visa issuance process, Immigration functions and the Foreigners" Registration Process. The project seeks to provide unified access to the Immigration and Law enforcement authorities about the visa application data, immigration data, registration data and other relevant information about stay and travel of the foreigners in India, for effective tracking of the foreigners.

"Public Order" and "Police" are state subjects. As such, prevention of crime, including crime against tourists is the primary responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory. Details in this regard are not maintained centrally.

The measures taken by Government to ensure safety and security of tourists including foreign tourists are as below:-
i) The Ministry of Tourism has launched 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline in 12 International Languages including Hindi & English on 8.2.2016. This service is operational all days in a year offering a "multi-lingual helpdesk" in the designated languages to provide support service in terms of providing information relating to
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Travel & Tourism in India to the domestic and International tourists and to assist the callers with advice on action to be taken during times of distress while travelling in India and if need be alert the concerned authorities. The languages handled by the Tourist Helpline include ten International languages besides English and Hindi, namely, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

ii) Adoption of code of conduct for Safe and Hon'ble Tourism, which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.

iii) All the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations have been asked to take immediate effective steps for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity, if any.
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iv) The National Tourism Ministers' Conference was convened on 18th July, 2013 and 21st August 2014 in New Delhi which resolved that the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women. The State Governments / UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

v) Grant of Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) on a pilot basis.

vi) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents happening involving foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism posts an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.

vii) The Ministry of Tourism has issued the Guidelines on Safety and Security of Tourists for State Governments /Union Territories and Tips for Travelers in September 2014. These guidelines were sent to the State Governments/Union Territories and other relevant authorities to
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stress the importance of safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practices and encourage closer cooperation for ensuring a pleasant experience to the tourists. The Guidelines are indicative references that may be useful to the States in sharing or adopting the best practices and design their domestic measures to better protect tourists. In addition to these guidelines "Tips to Travellers" are also offered to make the visit of tourists to Incredible India, a memorable experience.
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